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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

REVISED SYNTHESIS TEXT ON CHAPTER III OF THE AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by the two Vice-Chairmen

NOTE

We, the two vice-chairmen for the Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development have, with the valuable support from the Secretariat, prepared this revised synthesis text on Chapter III of the Agenda for Development as the basis for our continued negotiations.

The text is based on the earlier synthesis, our consultations in January-February 1996 and additional proposals put forward by March 15. It was, to a large extent, prepared before the final outcome of the negotiations on the follow-up to resolution 48/162 was known. There might therefore be need for some adjustments in the text to make it conform to the results of the 48/162 process. This could be done during the forthcoming negotiations.

There might also be some overlap between the revised synthesis text and the resolution on follow-up to 48/162. In view of the chair this is not necessarily a problem, since it will enable the Agenda for Development, with its three chapters, to stand on its own.

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III. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES AND FOLLOW-UP

1. Strengthening of international cooperation for development

212. The international community is entering a new and challenging phase in invigorating the institutions in support of international cooperation for development. Globalization and interdependence have become key features of the world economy as fewer problems can be solved by national efforts alone. International cooperation for development is more than ever acknowledged as a necessity, that derives from recognized mutual interest. Therefore, it is necessary that such cooperation be strengthened. In this effort the United Nations occupies a central position and key role.

213. There is an increasing acceptance of a common concept of development, centered on human beings fostered by sustained economic growth and sustainable development and supported by a revitalized and enhanced system of international cooperation. The major international conferences held over the last five years, have played a key role in building this common concept and in identifying the actions needed to fulfill common goals. Fulfilling the goals and commitments reached at major international conferences is essential if development is to materialize to its fullest extent and in all its facets. Therefore, a multidimensional approach to development is essential. Promoting development based on a comprehensive and integrated approach should guide bilateral and multilateral development cooperation and should serve as a guiding organizing principle for the United Nations development system.

214. Among the many actors in international development, the United Nations, because of its unique universal character and impartiality and because of its physical presence in many parts of the world, plays a central role in promoting international development cooperation. This central role should be reinforced. Therefore, through this Agenda, recommendations are made for a stronger, more effective and efficient United Nations so that it, and the United Nations system as a whole may contribute better to economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development in all countries, in particular in developing countries, and respond to the ever-changing economic and social world conditions in a more effective and flexible way. This requires that a number of institutional issues be addressed while safeguarding the transparent, democratic and truly universal character of the Organization and taking into account the overall ongoing processes of reform of the United Nations.

2. Role of the United Nations in development in its various functions

215. The United Nations Charter calls upon the Organization to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social and related character, and to create conditions of stability and economic and social well being that are necessary for friendly and peaceful relations among nations based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its

Member States. Consequently, the role and functions of the United Nations in development range wide and deep.

216. The key characteristics of the United Nations are its universal membership and comprehensive mandate. The United Nations constitutes a unique forum for building international consensus on global priorities for which there exists no substitute. Forging consensus and commitments, through deliberation and negotiation at, inter alia, various international conferences, on international economic social and related issues is one of the most important functions of the United Nations system. To this end, the capacity of the United nations and its various bodies to undertake analytical and policy-oriented work in the economic and social fields must be realized.

217. The United Nations is also singularly well placed for developing international law and establishing norms and standards as well as treaties and conventions. Furthermore, the United Nations plays a prominent role in raising public awareness, in promoting and advocating the implementation of internationally agreed principles and commitments through concrete development programmes, in responding to humanitarian needs, in collecting and disseminating information, and through its presence in the field.

218. The United Nations has the unique and fundamental mandate to address issues of peace and development in an integrated manner, through appropriate institutions, and to operationalize their interlinkages. The United Nations should play a leading role in formulating and implementing policies concerning conflict resolution, including post conflict peace-building, emergency assistance, and the continuum from relief to rehabilitation and long-term development. At the same time, these activities should not be to the detriment of the Organization's consideration of and actions on development issues.

219. The United Nations, in cooperation with the Bretton Woods Institutions, other bodies of the United Nations system, including its specialized agencies, and the WTO, has a leading role in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in global economic policy making and in ensuring the effective implementation of internationally agreed policies and goals. It must do so both in facilitating the establishment of international development priorities and in promoting coordination and cooperation between the many development actors. It is essential for the United Nations to harness as effectively as possible the complementary and mutually reinforcing roles and capacities of the various parts of the system, both at headquarters and in the field.

220. An important feature of the United Nations is its operational activities for development in the field. The United Nations should continue to provide assistance and advice in a neutral manner and without preconceptions. Furthermore, because of its wide-ranging mandate, the Organization is well suited to promote a comprehensive and balanced approach to economic development, social development and environmental protection as components of sustainable development. Therefore, the challenge for the United Nations and its funds and programmes is to play a leading role in supporting governments, particularly those of the developing

countries, in their efforts to address increasingly complex issues of development in an interdependent world.

221. The United Nations performs various functions in the economic, social and related fields. The Organization will remain effective and relevant only as a result of high quality performance, avoidance of overlap and duplication, responsiveness to changing conditions and trends, transparency in its operations and being fully accountable for its actions. However, enhancing its performance depends not only on reform of its institutional structures, capabilities and functions but equally on adequate and predictable financial resources. Reforming and revitalizing the United Nations should not be an exercise based on cost-cutting only. Savings, realized as a result of reform, should be reinvested in the Organization so that it can effectively implement the mandates called for by its member States.

3. Enhancing the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the UN system in development

222. Over the last fifty years the United Nations system has grown and expanded in the economic, social and related sectors. Through its activities the system has contributed significantly to the development process. The Organization is, however today, being called upon to respond more effectively to the changing development needs and demands. Streamlining, consolidating, rationalization and coordination of activities and institutions will contribute to enhancing the role, capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system in development.

223. Efforts are needed with respect to the General Assembly, especially its Second and Third committees, ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, United Nations Secretariat and reporting arrangements. Achieving greater coherence and complementarity among related activities and/or improving linkages between them will also contribute to improving the United Nations system's organizational structure.

224. Essential to improving the coordination and focus of the United Nations system's development activities is to ensure that it is guided by a clear set of priorities and strategies identified by the General Assembly, with the support of ECOSOC, and that incorporate the outcomes of recent major international conferences. Also essential is that ECOSOC has the capacity to fulfill its role in overall coordination in the economic, social and related sectors, and in guidance of operational activities.

- General Assembly

225. The General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policies in the economic, social and related fields, and the main forum where Governments pursue the development dialogue in its political context. This dialogue aims at both promoting an integrated view of matters relating to the economic, social and related fields,

thus fostering the deeper political understanding needed for enhanced international development cooperation, and at generating impulses for action and launching initiatives.

226. Measures have to be identified to enhance the ability of the General Assembly debate to generate substantive solutions to specific policy problems and to take an integrated approach to development. A more focussed General Debate and a thorough evaluation of a reduced number of themes by the Assembly's committees might contribute to improving the coherence of the Assembly's work, in particular of its second, third and fifth committees, and would facilitate the consideration of development in an integrated manner. Greater coherence and complementarity between the work of the Second and Third Committees needs to be promoted. For this purpose, the General Committee of the General Assembly should ensure better coordination of the agendas of the Second and Third Committees. Also, the bureaux of the Second and Third Committees should review their respective programmes of work in order to exchange information on the issues discussed in each and identify potential areas of overlap and duplication.

226bis A necessary corollary to revitalizing the role of the General Assembly is to assess possibilities to increase the efficient involvement of relevant non state actors in its work, in accordance with its rules of procedure, such as panel discussions with delegations and interactive debates with the active participation of Secretariat and agency representatives as well as outside experts. With such improvements, better use would be made of the forum of the General Assembly to deal with major economic, social or other issues, which are now largely addressed by separately organized major international conferences.

227. At the same time, for the General Assembly to fully perform its Charter role, measures also have to be taken in addition to the strengthening of the General Assembly itself, to ensure that priorities set by the General Assembly are transmitted to the entire United Nations system for full implementation and follow-up, as appropriate. The policy-making and policy guidance role of the General Assembly should be reaffirmed in the area of macroeconomic policies.

228. An essential aspect of the transmission of priorities is to achieve better coherence among the substantive, programming, coordination and budgeting processes. The current intergovernmental machinery for priority setting should be reviewed, to ensure that sufficient flexibility exists to realign programmes as priorities evolve, including the role and working methods of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, with a view of finding ways of improving programme coordination functions throughout the United Nations system.

- ECOSOC

229. ECOSOC must continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions in the economic and social fields. ECOSOC must also promote a coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields. The on-going efforts to reform ECOSOC have already

produced significant improvements in its functioning. These reforms should be allowed to take root and be built on. At the same time, further efforts are required to increase the capacity of ECOSOC to monitor and coordinate the United Nations development system. This calls for more effective procedures and further review of the work programme and working methods of the Council with a view to better fulfilling its responsibilities for overall guidance, coordination and conference follow-up. Enhancing the capacity of ECOSOC, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, to furnish information on development trends to the Security Council and the General Assembly, would contribute to strengthening the UN capability in social and economic development.

• Segments

230. The organization and preparation of the high-level segment should be improved, in particular the selection of its main theme which should be topical, cross-sectoral and of global interest. The duration of the segment should be of an adequate length to allow for a meaningful dialogue. The segment should be used to improve the synergy between the social and economic sectors and to strengthen the dialogue and active cooperation on development issues between the UN, the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO. The dialogue with the heads of the international financial and trade institutions should be more focussed on issues of common interest. To this end, the possibility should be explored of having a joint report prepared by the Secretariats of the United Nations, UNCTAD, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. To reinforce the role of the high level segment, more weight should be given to its outcome, which should normally be in the form of agreed conclusions and which should be followed up by all relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system.

231. The coordination segment of the Council provides the opportunity to examine cross cutting themes common to major conferences and to contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference. Consideration should also be given to examine a theme dealing with concrete sectoral issues. A more focussed dialogue on the theme or themes should be developed with the funds and programmes, the regional commissions and the relevant specialized agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, as appropriate. The agreed conclusions of the segment should be strengthened and be made more action-oriented.

231bis The joint meetings of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Committee on Programme and Coordination shall be discontinued and their functions shall be assigned to the coordination segment.

232. The role of ECOSOC in providing coordination and guidance particularly in the context of the policies formulated by the General Assembly through the triennial policy reviews of operational activities, should be reinforced. ECOSOC's role as the overall coordinating body in development programmes also needs to be enhanced. Towards that end the operational activities segment should provide guidance to the Boards of the Funds and Programmes and should monitor the implementation of General Assembly guidelines, including operational aspects

of the follow-up to major international conferences and by establishing objectives, priorities and strategies in the implementation of the policies formulated by the General Assembly. ECOSOC should receive objective and in-depth evaluations of country level performance by the Funds and Programmes and the organizations of the UN system, prepared under the authority of the Secretary-General. The high-level session of the operational activities segment should deal with emerging requirements of developing countries on the basis of the report prepared by the Secretary-General. Heads of Funds and Programmes should, through the Secretary-General, bring to the attention of the Council particular areas requiring guidance and intergovernmental support.

233. The agenda of the general segment should be radically streamlined. The primary function of the segment should be to conduct an action-oriented review of the activities, reports and recommendations of ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies. ECOSOC should avoid repetition of debates held in these bodies and focus its attention on major policy issues that require a prioritized and coordinated response from the UN system as a whole. The reports of subsidiary bodies should identify clearly conclusions and recommendations and the issues that may require the attention of and/or action by the Council.

• Functional commissions and expert groups

234. The extent to which ECOSOC may have ceded too much of its authority and functions to its subsidiary bodies, or weakened its standing within the UN system by having marginalized itself, is an issue that requires examination. Better guidance by ECOSOC to its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies is particularly important. The functional commissions should be able to give the best possible support to ECOSOC in its role of providing overall coordination and guidance, and in the follow-up of major UN conferences. It is therefore crucial to ensure the continuing technical credibility of these commissions, groups and bodies so that they can effectively serve as catalysts for action.

234bis The ECOSOC should undertake a review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, to ensure more effective and coordinated discussions and outcomes of their work. Such a review should be completed by the fifty-second session of the General Assembly and should, as a matter of priority, consider the role, working methods and relationships with other bodies of the Commission for Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the Committee on Natural Resources. The World Food Council should be discontinued and its functions should be absorbed by FAO and WFP.

234ter In case of the functional commissions with primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the implementation of a major conference, ECOSOC shall ensure the harmonization and coordination of their agendas and multi-year work programmes, by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them. If an effective and coordinated follow-up process suggests the need, then the consolidation of activities of subsidiary

bodies may be considered as appropriate.

• Regional commissions

235. The regional commissions play an important role in bringing the work of the United Nations closer to the specific development situations and concerns of countries and regions, including fostering economic cooperation, economic integration and economic development, in providing the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, with substantive analytical and policy oriented work, and in assisting countries in each region in the implementation and monitoring of recommendations of conferences and of other commitments. In order to enhance their role, consideration should be given to decentralization of activities and resources from headquarters to the regions and a stronger focus on regional problems such as poverty eradication, statistical data collection, policy analysis and recommendations, and other related research activities.

235bis ECOSOC should provide for the review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action-and policy-oriented bodies in the economic and development fields. The Council should ensure better coordination of the regional commissions with the United Nations system as a whole as well as among themselves, thereby eliminating unnecessary duplication or overlapping of work. ECOSOC should also ensure the active participation of the regional commissions in the Council's examination of the chosen theme for the follow-up of major conferences. The regional commissions are encouraged to undertake their own management and functional assessment for adjusting their priorities, mandates, tasks and structures taking into account that numerous other regional institutions have been created.

• Funds and programmes

236. United Nations Funds and Programmes are important vehicles for advancing development cooperation. There is need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis commensurate with the increased needs of developing countries. The urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries, should receive priority allocation of grant resources of programmes and projects provided through the Funds and Programmes. The United Nations operational activities for development should be implemented by the funds and programmes in accordance with General Assembly resolutions adopted particularly in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities. In this implementation the funds and programmes should take advantage of the expertise of the specialized agencies. Memoranda of Understanding clearly outlining individual responsibilities and areas of cooperation should be encouraged between related funds, programmes and agencies, in particular with respect to humanitarian assistance.

237. The continuing process of assessments of the Funds and Programmes' roles and profiles needs to be supported and encouraged with the view of improving the quality and impact of the United Nations operational activities. The efficiency and effectiveness of the Funds and

Programmes should be further improved to achieve greater relevance and coherence by adopting improved working methods and adjusting the various mission statements of respective organizations in accordance with changing requirements. The guidelines for programming, formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and administration of operational activities should be simplified and harmonized to facilitate the integration of development assistance with national programmes. The desirability of merging certain administrative functions of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA including at the field level should be explored. The question of integrating and consolidating the activities of individual organs, bodies, and programmes in order to avoid overlap of tasks and to ensure the clear establishment of priorities should be further examined by the Council.

238. Operational activities should be country-driven, carried out for the benefit of developing countries at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities. Increased emphasis on the quality of field level performance is therefore important. The Resident Coordinator for the Operational Activities of the UN system must therefore be strengthened to respond effectively to the changing requirements of developing countries, including through the more effective use of the country strategy note as a common framework for country programmes of the organizations of the UN system, as well as by ensuring in all countries a more coherent response by the system to the national plans and priorities of the recipient government. The resident coordinator system, in full consultation with the governments, should facilitate a coherent, effective and coordinated United Nations implementation of policies adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and follow-up to major international conferences at the field level.

239. [deleted, see para 236]

- **Specialized Agencies**

240. Specialized agencies play a vital role in furthering the analytical work of relevance to the implementation of various aspects of the global consensus on international economic cooperation, and in promoting and securing the international cooperation needed. The functioning and mandates of these agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, should be assessed in order to take the necessary steps to sharpen their priorities and adjust their activities accordingly. Agencies should build their potential as centres of excellence in their respective fields, and be encouraged to enhance their normative and technical functions, rather than focus primarily on aid management. Mechanisms should be elaborated to enable ECOSOC, within its mandate, to provide guidance to specialized agencies, to transmit institutional priorities and recommend institutional adjustments in order to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts of all bodies, including the funds and programmes.

241. The purpose and functions of specialized agencies as well as the clear definition of their respective roles and tasks need to be periodically examined in the governing bodies to ensure that their activities, priorities and basic programmes remain relevant to the preoccupations of the international community and with a clear focus on the eradication of poverty. Further efforts

are also called for to enhance the transparency of the operations of the agencies. Cooperation and coordination with the specialized agencies on themes of common interest need to be strengthened. At the intergovernmental level, ECOSOC has special responsibilities which it should fully exercise in accordance with article 63 of the Charter. At the Secretariat level, the relation of the Secretary-General with the Agencies is crucial and needs to be further enhanced.

• Bureau

242. The Bureau of the Council should play an active role by meeting regularly, especially between sessions. The Bureau should assist the Council in identifying economic, social and related issues for international cooperation, maintain close contacts with the bureaux of the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies as well as with those of the specialized agencies and the executive boards of the funds and programmes and thus allow for a better interaction between ECOSOC and these bodies and contribute by assisting ECOSOC to better fulfil its role.

- UNCTAD [the contents of this section depends on the outcome of UNCTAD IX]

242bis UNCTAD plays an important role in providing the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, with the substantive inputs it needs to undertake analytical and policy-oriented work on development issues. Consequently UNCTAD has an important role to play in the implementation of the Agenda for Development.

- Secretariat

243. The effectiveness of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields is closely related to the transparency, accountability, and efficient functioning of the Secretariat. Although progress has been achieved, further reform of the Secretariat should be considered to enhance the role of the United Nations in development. The structure and functioning of departments in the economic, social and related fields should be further reviewed in order to improve coherence, coordination and complementarity within the Secretariat in support of development. To this end the creation of the post of Deputy Secretary-General for International Cooperation and Development should be considered.

- Reporting

244. Reports to intergovernmental bodies should be limited in numbers, concise and action-oriented. They should highlight critical areas requiring action by intergovernmental bodies and, where appropriate, make specific recommendations. Greater use could be made of the practice of tasks managers, whereby a given agency is responsible for coordinating the response of the entire UN system on a subject. Efforts should be made to rationalize and simplify reporting procedures and, where possible, consolidate reports requested by Governments, thereby avoiding duplication to the maximum extent possible. Specific measures to achieve these goals should be adopted.

- Interagency coordination

245. Better inter-agency coordination within the UN system is essential to support the goals of the Agenda for Development. This includes coordination and cooperation on themes of common interest and identification of respective strengths and weaknesses in order to ensure a more effective and efficient role of the United Nations system while taking into account respective mandates. This requires making better use of a strengthened Administrative Committee on Coordination. ACC should bring system wide coordination issues to the attention of ECOSOC and make recommendations thereon. Further efforts should be made to enhance the role of ACC and its standing committees to ensure that the United Nations system operates in a coherent, coordinated and complementary manner. A systematic exchange of information and an appropriate distribution of tasks should be ensured within the ACC machinery and with any specific inter-agency mechanism, including ad hoc inter-agency thematic task forces set up in the context of the follow-up to individual conferences. Full information of the Member States on the work of ACC should be made available and a wider distribution of the report of the ACC should be pursued.

- Non-state actors

245bis The existing mechanisms for the involvement and participation of non-state actors in United Nations activities should be fully utilised and improved. The contribution of transnational corporations to intergovernmental discussions and their involvement in United Nations activities should be strengthened in view of their major role in stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship worldwide as well as within domestic economies.

245ter The possibility of periodic informal meetings on specific topics between appropriate UN bodies, especially ECOSOC, and the private sector, parliamentarians, the academic community and NGOs could be explored. The Secretary-General should be invited to make proposals to this end.

4. Interaction between the United Nations and other multilateral development institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO

246. The United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, other parts of the UN system, as well as the regional development banks and the WTO should strengthen their interaction, cooperation and coordination in order that they can build on and benefit more from their respective strengths. Existing working relations between the UN and other international organizations should also be strengthened through, inter alia, the sharing of information on their work in specific areas of common interest.

247. Enhancing the interaction between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization at the global, regional, subregional, national and sectoral levels is particularly important for international cooperation to respond effectively to the growing

interaction between trade, money, finance and development. UNCTAD and the WTO should further enhance their working relationship, mutual cooperation and complementarity.

248. The importance of strengthening the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions has been repeatedly recognized by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The interaction between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should be further enhanced by honouring the relationship agreements with these institutions while respecting their mandates.

249. [deleted: see para 246]

250. One means of increasing the interaction between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, and the regional development banks is by deepening their connections with each other in a more systematic way. Consideration should be given to strengthening existing as well as establishing new mechanisms, as needed, for cooperation and coordination at the intergovernmental, country and Secretariat levels.

251. [deleted see paras 252 and 170]

252. At the intergovernmental level the United Nations and the Bretton-Woods institutions should identify, through constructive dialogue, areas for joint efforts to reach the goals and objectives crucial to development. The respective memberships of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should work together to ensure that sustained economic growth and sustainable development are central goals of their policies and programmes. This will also require increased interaction by the secretariats of the UN system, including the funds and programmes and specialized agencies, and the Bretton Woods institutions and regional development banks.

253. Closer relationships should be developed in particular between the General Assembly and ECOSOC on the one hand, and the IMF Interim Committee and the joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee on the other, with a view to achieving maximum complementarity. There should also be a more active participation of the Bretton Woods institutions in the work of the Organization and its relevant bodies and vice versa.

254. The interaction between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions must not only be at the headquarters but also at field level. The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions could cooperate more closely in the areas of capacity building and field operations, particularly for projects and programmes requiring decentralized implementation. Closer links could be developed between the country strategy note and the policy framework papers of the Bretton Woods institutions if the country in question so decides. In channelling financial and technical assistance through multilateral development finance institutions, donor countries are encouraged to take into account the respective roles and functions of the United Nations programmes and funds and the Bretton Woods institutions so as to ensure coherence of development assistance and minimal overlap and duplication among them.

255. **NO AMENDMENTS** In post-emergency situations, the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions must support the transition from emergency to rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development. To this end, new coordination procedures between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should be developed.

256. At the Secretariat level improved arrangements for consultations, including making better use of the United Nations' Administrative Committee on Coordination as well as rationalized analysis and reporting functions, should be explored. The Secretary-General is requested to examine in consultation with the Executive Heads of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO ways and means of intensifying interaction and cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO at all levels. Joint meetings between the Secretary General, the Executive Heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, and of the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations on selected themes should be encouraged, in order to achieve a greater coherence and complementarity in their activities. Increased cooperation and transparency for collecting and dissemination of data, analyses, economic projections as well as the possible preparation of joint reports should also be considered.

257. Notwithstanding these calls for greater interaction, it should be recognized that close relationships already exist between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Cooperation between the United Nations entities and the World Bank in relation to aid coordination, project execution and task forces on substantive subjects is of long standing. Innovative approaches to cooperation, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Special Initiative for Africa should be built upon. The GEF provides a promising example of cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in jointly tackling environmental problems. Such a form of cooperation, could be considered and adjusted to specific tasks in other areas of common concern.

5. Follow-up and implementation

257bis **[former para 260]** A strong political commitment by the international community is needed to implement a strengthened international cooperation for development as reflected in this Agenda.

257ter **[based on former paras 261 and 262]** The intergovernmental follow-up of the Agenda for Development shall be undertaken by the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental mechanism and the principal policy-making and appraisal organ of the United Nations system. The General Assembly has called for the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership. Such dialogue should serve as an important mechanism through which the intergovernmental follow-up and assessment of this Agenda and its implementation will be conducted. The ECOSOC, within its mandate, shall assist the General Assembly in overseeing system-wide implementation of the Agenda and by providing recommendations in this regard. At the same time, governments as well as regional economic integration organizations have an important role in the follow-up of the Agenda.

258. Closely related to the follow-up and implementation of this Agenda is the urgent need for an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation and follow up at the national, subregional, regional and international level of the recommendations and commitments of recent UN major conferences and agreements on development. While governments have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the declarations and programmes of action adopted by international conferences, the international community, in particular the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the regional development banks, has an important role in contributing to, assisting in, facilitating and reviewing the progress of the implementation of the results of those conferences at all levels and in further promoting their goals and objectives. Compiling these commitments, recommendations, and agreements, estimating their costs, ordering and sequencing their implementation, and proposing schedules for putting them into effect would greatly contribute to this task.

259. Within the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council promotes a coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of major international conferences. ECOSOC should continue to improve the ways in which it draws together in a coherent way the outcomes of the major conferences and summits, so as to ensure that they guide the activities of the United Nations system.

260. **[see para 257bis]**

261. **[see para 257ter]**

262. **[see para 257ter]**